

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2582
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
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SUBJ: VISIT TO PRC BY US NAVAL OFFICER

1. SUMMARY: US NAVAL OFFICER VISITED CHINA AUGUST 5-18 ACCOMPANYING CHINESE-BORN WIFE, AND WAS GIVEN SPECIAL TREATMENT BECAUSE OF MILITARY STATUS. OFFICIAL OF CHINESE PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION FOR FRIENDSHIP WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES (CPAFFC) TOLD HIM PRC WELCOMED OFFICIAL OR UNOFFICIAL VISITS BY US MILITARY PERSONNEL. PRC NAVY OFFICERS SAID US MILITARY VISITORS COULD VISIT NAVAL SHIPS AND NAVAL BASES. END SUMMARY.

2. LCDR JERRY J. FLETCHER, USN, PRESENTLY A STUDENT IN THE NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS COURSE OF THE US NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL AT MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA, WAS IN CHINA AUGUST 5-8 AND VISITED CANTON, SHANGHAI, SUCHOW, NANKING AND PEKING. FLETCHER ACCOMPANIED HIS WIFE, A US CITIZEN BORN IN CHINA, WHO HAD APPLIED FOR A VISA AS OVERSEAS CHINESE. FLETCHER MADE APPLICATION THROUGH NAVAL CHANNELS FOR USG PERMISSION TO MAKE THE VISIT AND WAS BRIEFED BY NAVAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE AND FBI PRIOR TO DEPARTURE.

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3. THE FLETCHERS WERE ASSIGNED A SPECIAL ESCORT FROM PEKING FOR THE ENTIRE TRIP IN ADDITION TO LOCAL GUIDES. THE CHINESE APPEARED TO GIVE THEM SPECIAL

TREATMENT BECAUSE OF HIS MILITARY STATUS. IN SHANGHAI THEY WERE TAKEN THROUGH THE TUNNEL WHICH RUNS UNDERNEATH THE WHANG POO RIVER. WE BELIEVE THEY ARE THE FIRST AMERICANS TO HAVE GONE THROUGH THE TUNNEL. (MAP OF SHANGHAI WITH TUNNEL LOCATION WILL BE POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT). IN A MEETING IN SHANGHAI WITH A SHIP'S CAPTAIN OF THE NATIONAL CHINA SHIPPING COMPANY, THEY WERE TOLD THAT HIS COMPANY HAS PLANS READY FOR SHIPPING TO THE US.

4. IN PEKING THEY WERE GIVEN A SPECIAL LUNCHEON HOSTED BY SUN CHENG-KAO, A LEADING MEMBER OF THE CPAFFC. WITHOUT ANY PROMPTING BY FLETCHER, SUN REPEATEDLY SAID THAT THE PRC WOULD WELCOME OFFICIAL OR UNOFFICIAL VISITS BY US MILITARY PERSONNEL. SUN, SPEAKING EXCELLENT ENGLISH, TOLD FLETCHER THAT HE HAD ACCOMPANIED THE PRC SOCCER TEAM WHICH TOURED AMERICA IN SEPTEMBER OF 1977 AND VISITED ANNAPOLIS. HE SAID THAT THE LUNCHEON WAS TO RECIPROCATATE THE HOSPITALITY EXTENDED BY US NAVY OFFICERS AT ANNAPOLIS.

5. A DINNER WITH TWO CHINESE NAVY OFFICERS FROM THE TRAINING SECTION OF THE NAVAL COMMAND HEADQUARTERS IN PEKING WAS ARRANGED FOR FLETCHER. ONE OFFICER, 50 YEAR OLD HU WEI-HSING, IS A "SECTION LEADER" IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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SUBMARINE TRAINING SQUADRON; THE OTHER, 35 YEAR OLD CHANG TE-SHAN WORKS IN THE SAME SECTION. BOTH REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED THE HOPE FOR SPEEDY NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS AND COOPERATION AGAINST "SOCIALIST IMPERIALISM". THEY ALSO TOLD FLETCHER THAT VISITS TO NAVAL SHIPS AND NAVAL BASES COULD BE ARRANGED FOR SUBSEQUENT US MILITARY VISITORS.

6. MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH FLETCHER, INCLUDING DETAILS ON SHANGHAI TUNNEL AND BIO DATA ON CHINESE OFFICIALS WILL BE POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT. FLETCHER WILL SUBMIT COMPLETE REPORT ON CHINA TRIP TO COMMANDANT OF US NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL. WOODCOCK

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